

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Patrick Rafter

Art Unit: 3768

Serial No.: 10/599,769

Examiner: Michael T Rozanski

Filed : October 9, 2006

For : AUTOMATED MYOCARDIAL CONTRAST ECHOCARDIOGRAPHY

Hon. Commissioner of Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed February 3, 2009, please consider the following remarks.

Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over US Pat. 6,503,203 (Rafter et al.) in view of US patent pub. US2003/0208124 (Poland). Both of these documents were initially cited by applicant at the outset of this case. This ground of rejection is respectfully traversed.

The claimed invention finds utility in ultrasound exams where a number of differently oriented images must be acquired in a very brief time period. The present application gives the example of a stress echo exam with myocardial contrast enhancement, in which four chamber views, two chamber views, and transverse views must be acquired at peak stress levels. Different views of the heart must be acquired the moment that the patient's cardiovascular system is stressed to a predetermined level by exercise or a pharmacological agent. It is necessary to acquire the images quickly so that the patient is not maintained in the high stress